

17—20.6 (231) Election process.

20.6(1) Eligibility criteria. Any person may file to be considered as a candidate for election to OIL who:

- a. Has attained the age of 60 years on or before the day of the election;
- b. Is a resident of the district to be represented;
- c. Is willing to commit to a full term of service as an advocate for the elderly. This service may involve pre-session and post-session meetings as convened by the AAA coordinator.

20.6(2) Candidate characteristics. Candidates recruited shall be representative of their home area. Candidates shall include representatives of urban and rural areas, economic groups, both sexes, racial or ethnic minorities, senior citizens organizations, and other relevant distinctions.

20.6(3) Terms of office. It is the goal of this program to provide opportunity for participation to the greatest number of senior citizens possible.

a. For greater continuity of operation, a delegate's term of office shall be two years, and a delegate may be elected to serve two consecutive terms.

b. No delegate shall serve more than four consecutive years unless appointed to fill a vacated seat. In this instance, a delegate may serve up to a total of six consecutive years.

c. The department shall notify the AAAs of delegates ineligible for reelection at the close of each session.

20.6(4) AAA advisory council apportionment of seats.

a. An apportionment plan established by an AAA advisory council shall be filed with the department.

b. Each AAA advisory council shall indicate in their apportionment plan the process by which annual elections in the total area will be held.

c. AAA advisory councils may apportion seats within their PSA in any reasonably equitable manner. While AAAs have the option of basing apportionment on single geographic districts with equal populations, other options may be explored. These options include:

(1) Multiple delegate districts in which all the older persons in the multiple district may vote for two or more seats.

(2) Where a large minority population exists, a district might be apportioned to that minority group.

(3) It may be desirable to apportion seats by county if population variations are not excessive.

d. AAA advisory councils shall review apportionment plans annually.

e. Any changes made in the apportionment plans by an AAA shall be submitted to the department for approval at least two months prior to the scheduled election.

20.6(5) AAA responsibilities in preparation for an election.

a. Each AAA shall appoint a staff person to be the OIL coordinator.

b. Elections shall be scheduled for the 2nd Monday of April unless an alternative date has received a 60-day prior approval from the department.

(1) Primary elections shall not be held.

(2) Elections shall not be waived by any AAA due to lack of contests in one or more districts.

(3) Voting hours shall be chosen for the convenience of the majority of the eligible voters and widely posted and advertised at least two weeks prior to the election date.

(4) AAAs shall establish as many polling places as feasible that will offer the opportunity to vote to the greatest number of participants such as city halls, courthouses, community centers, libraries, and public facilities, and not limited to congregate meal sites.

(5) To staff the voting places, AAAs may recruit and register volunteer poll watchers.

(6) Poll watchers' duties shall include keeping a list of voters at each voting place. The list shall be kept at the AAA office for 60 days following the election to be used in the event of a challenge.

c. Local organization involvement. Local organizations shall be encouraged to assist in planning and scheduling elections, recruiting, nominating candidates, and obtaining the fullest possible participation of their members in the elections.

d. Absentee voting.

(1) Although recommended by the department, the option of absentee or mailed ballots will be left to the discretion of the AAA.

(2) If allowed, absentee ballots shall be made available upon request of an individual voter, and an alphabetical list of persons requesting absentee ballots shall be prepared.

(3) The absentee ballot list shall be checked against the voter list prepared at the voting sites on election day.

(4) Ballots shall be validated upon receipt and be received at the AAA office on or before election day.